

Amy Sanders

STICKING CLOSE TO THE SHORE

Truro, Mass., artist Amy Sanders first developed a love for Cape Cod as a child, when she spent summers there. The serene beauty of the area has been a continuous source of inspiration ever since. Pine woods. Ocean and bay. Beaches and sand dunes. This is a landscape that reinvigorates the artist, emotionally and creatively, sending her back to her easel again and again. “For me, the eastern coast is home,” Sanders says, “and that’s what distinguishes it from other places, and what I love the most. My heart and soul have always been here.”

Sanders is a studio painter, working from photos she takes of those all too fleeting scenes

that attract her attention—light, clouds and changing tides. The act of painting, she finds, brings new power to the encounter: “Spending the time to paint a particular scene deepens the emotional intensity of the experience, and sets it as a lasting part of me,” she says. “When I look at a photo, such as the reference I used for *November Sky*, below, I have a memory of being there. When I look at the painting, *November Sky*, I am there.”

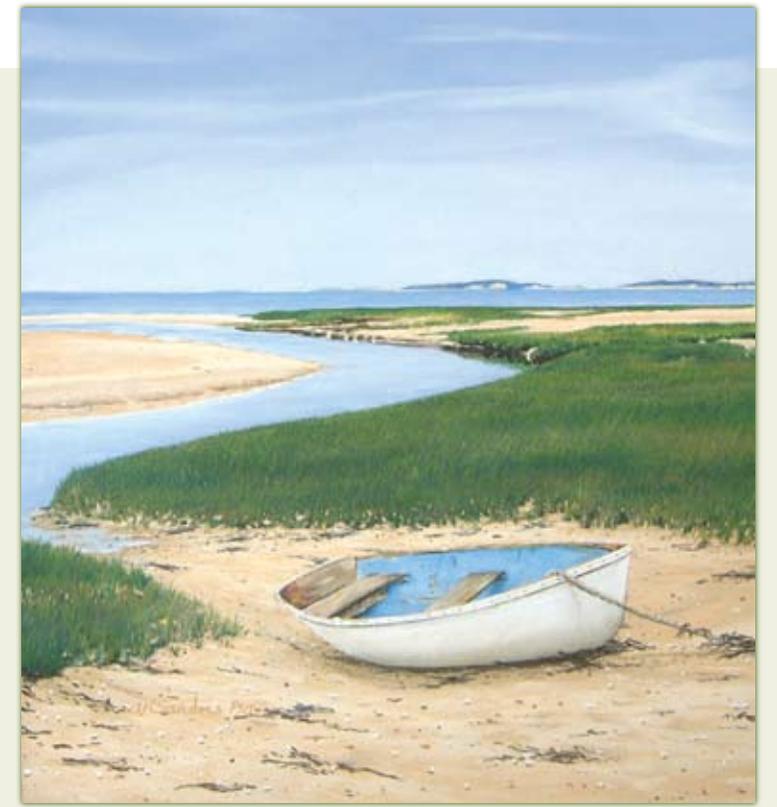
Although she has worked *en plein air*, Sanders chooses to work primarily at home, from reference material, because—as someone with a full-time

day job—she appreciates being able to start painting whenever she has a spare minute. The location in her painting, *November Sky* is Ballston Beach in Truro, which she describes as an ever-changing landscape. “The Atlantic Ocean batters away at it, and has cut back 15 to 20 feet of dune since the painting; both houses have since been moved back. I chose the scene because of the unbelievable light from a late day sun that was on the clouds and just brushing the beach.”

She painted the piece on Wallis pastel paper and used primarily Sennelier pastels for the fall brush and Winsor & Newton pastels for the



November Sky (12x22)



Waiting (12¼x12)

clouds, which were the biggest challenge in the painting. “This was the first painting in which I strayed into my now standard green and purple combination for clouds, rather than the blue-grays I’d previously used.”

Waiting (above) is a composite location comprised of a rowboat that rests on the breakwater at Wellfleet Harbor (a favorite subject for many local artists) and a marshy landscape another two miles west. “I thought the boat sitting on the granite wasn’t so pretty,” Sanders says, “but on the sand, echoing the colors of the sky, I knew it would be something else. The challenge, then, was to keep the lighting consistent and to accurately create the shadow that the boat would cast when I wasn’t really looking at a shadow!”

Amy Sanders (www.amyksanders.com) is an award-winning artist and signature member of the Pastel Society of America. She has exhibited in galleries in Connecticut and on Cape Cod. Her work is represented by the Addison Art Gallery of Orleans, Mass.